

IN THE CLAIMS

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The listing of the claims which follows replaces any and all prior versions and/or listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid coding for a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 2.
3. (Original) A simian isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions with a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 1 or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto and which codes for a protein having ORL1 activity.
4. (Currently amended) A simian ORL1 gene consisting of the nucleic acid according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 3.
5. (Original) A recombinant vector containing the simian ORL1 gene according to claim 4.
6. (Original) A transformant cell containing the recombinant vector according to claim 5.
7. (Canceled) An isolated protein consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 2.
8. (Original) An isolated protein consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 2 with a substitution, deletion, addition or insertion of one or more amino acids, and having ORL1 activity.
9. (Currently amended) A compound evaluation method comprising:
  - a) a step of transferring a simian ORL1 gene into a cell to prepare a cell expressing the gene,  
a step of contacting a test compound with the cell, and  
a step of detecting specific binding of the test compound to a protein obtained by expression of the gene; or
  - b) a step of transferring a simian ORL1 gene into a cell to prepare a cell expressing the gene,  
a step of contacting a test compound with the cell,  
a step of assaying the activity of an intracellular signal transducer produced by the contact between the cell and the test compound, and  
a step of comparing the activity with the activity of the intracellular signal transducer without contact with the test compound or
  - c) a step of contacting a test compound with a simian protein having ORL1 activity,  
and

\_\_\_\_\_ a step of detecting a change in activity of the protein caused by the contact between the protein and the test compound.

10. (Canceled) A compound evaluation method comprising:
  - a step of transferring a simian ORL1 gene into a cell to prepare a cell expressing the gene,
  - a step of contacting a test compound with the cell,
  - a step of assaying the activity of an intracellular signal transducer produced by the contact between the cell and the test compound, and
  - a step of comparing the activity with the activity of the intracellular signal transducer without contact with the test compound.
11. (Canceled) A compound evaluation method comprising:
  - a step of contacting a test compound with a simian protein having ORL1 activity, and
  - a step of detecting a change in activity of the protein caused by the contact between the protein and the test compound.
12. (Canceled) The compound evaluation method according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the simian is a rhesus monkey.